

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11 and 12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended and claims 13 and 14 are cancelled. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 2 to include the features of claims 13 and 14, respectively, and clarify the claims. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejections of claims 1, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,746,818 to Yatake et al. (hereinafter Yatake) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,582,047 to Koitabashi et al. (hereinafter Koitabashi '047), claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,086,197 to Kubota et al. (hereinafter Kubota) in view of Yatake and Koitabashi '047, claims 2, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0044185 to Koitabashi et al. (hereinafter Koitabashi '185) in view of Yatake and Koitabashi '047, and claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Koitabashi '185 in view of Yatake, and further in view of Kubota, have been rendered moot because claims 13 and 14 were incorporated into claims 1 and 2, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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